

Aug. 25—Magpie-lark, (U). Aug. 31, (B). Oct. 12, (F). Oct. 19, (B).
 Aug. 27—Corvus (sp.), (U).
 Aug. 27—Pied Butcher-bird, (E). Sept. 28, (B).
 Aug. 27—Tawny Frogmouth, (E).
 Sept. 5—Tree Martin, (?B).
 Sept. 12—Welcome Swallow, (Y). Nov. 17, (B).
 Sept. 21—Nankeen Kestrel, (E). Sept. 29, (E).
 Sept. 28—Grey Currawong, (?B).
 Sept. 28—Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, (E and Y).
 Sept. 28—Galah, (?B).
 Oct. 12—Red Wattle-bird, (E).
 Oct. 19—Western Magpie, (U).

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Williams.

Grey Butcher-bird (*Cracticus torquatus*), an abnormal Clutch.—

The breeding population of this species on "Yanjettee" is approximately 12 pairs. During September, 1953, five nests were investigated, three with four eggs each, one with seven eggs, and one in which the birds had not then laid. One nest of four eggs disappeared, another hatched out four young which also disappeared, and the nest of seven eggs, the building of which had been rather protracted, hatched out seven young. This nest which was only eight feet from the ground in an open position was first noticed to have seven eggs on September 18. On October 7, when I visited it, all eggs had hatched and the shell of one egg was still in the nest. There were only six birds left in the nest on October 30 and another one had disappeared by November 1. Possibly the two missing birds had fallen out, as the nest was much over-crowded.

On November 3 two young birds were sitting on a limb within one foot of the nest and the other three were found in the surrounding timber. Four of these birds were ringed. They all had yellow gapes and palate.

The young birds called very often with a low location note which undoubtedly helped their parents to find them and it was also helpful in keeping the young together. It was interesting to watch a young bird which had fallen to the ground clamber up the trees using its wings as supports and then make short flights to higher branches. They stood like statues when approached, as do young Magpies. Both parents fed what appeared to be long worms to the young ones who had some difficulty in swallowing them. The parents assisted the young in their efforts to eat worms but often the worm was dropped, in which case the adult flew down, picked it up, and flew away with it. They did not offer it again to the young one.

On November 6 I only located 3 young and they showed little progress in the three days.

November 20 I again only found 3 young and there appeared to be considerable difference in their progress over the last fourteen days. All tails had grown but that of the little dark-breasted ringed bird least, and it appeared the most backward generally. They were all still awkward in flight and used the location note to keep together and to inform their parents of their whereabouts. They showed no signs of feeding themselves.

November 29 there were still at least three birds being fed. They were getting more venturesome and sometimes flew to their parents for food instead of waiting for it to be brought. It was noticed that any movement overhead such as a Wattle-bird flying induced a begging response. One bird appeared to be searching for food in the foliage. They were moving about with increasing confidence mostly in hops along the limbs.

November 30, three birds were noticed, two of which were ringed.

December 6, I flushed a ringed bird from the ground. Apparently they were becoming independent but this bird had not quite attained the agility and confidence of an adult. This was the last time I recognised any of the young birds.

How many young birds of this abnormal clutch survived to become adults I do not know, but five young birds (four ringed and one unringed) were seen after the last birds had left the nest. I assume the two young which had disappeared earlier were dead. Unfortunately I did not visit the nest regularly, so I cannot say how the eggs were laid. I never saw more than one bird at the nest, but two birds fed the young regularly once they were on the wing. There was no noticeable variation in the eggs to suggest that the eggs had been laid by two females. In a similar clutch recorded in the *Emu* (Vol. 13: 194) by H. L. White, there was evidence to show that it was laid by two females; some eggs were larger and marked differently.

—ANGUS ROBINSON, Coolup.

PROJECTS

The following members are engaged on projects in which the co-operation of other naturalists is desirable.

(1) Dr. D. L. Serventy is studying the factors that influence the breeding season of birds. Rainfall is one of these, as was well illustrated by the out-of-season breeding following the heavy rains of last February. Any information on this unusual Autumn breeding may be sent to the Editor who will forward it on to Dr. Serventy in England.

(2) Mr. Eric Sedgwick of Williams is preparing a survey of the spread of the two introduced Turtle-Doves, *Streptopelia chinensis* and *S. senegalensis*. He will be pleased to receive information on the occurrence, relative abundance, and the first appearance of the doves in any district.

(3) Mr. Peter Slater is studying plumage and behavioural changes in young hawks, and has a permit to keep them. Any member knowing the location of a nest with young hawks is requested to contact Mr. Eric Lindgren (38 Broadway, Nedlands) who will capture the hawks and send them on to Mr. Slater. When the study is finished all hawks will be released in their nest locality.

ERRATUM

On p. 175 of Vol. 4 in the key to genera transpose *Phyllodactylus* and *Diplodactylus*.